

**Council on Postsecondary Education
November 7, 2005**

Distance Learning Advisory Committee Report

The Distance Learning Advisory Committee met October 5, 2005. An update on the growing use of the Kentucky Virtual University was presented by Allen Lind, the Council's new KYVU chief executive officer and vice president for information and technology. Users of KYVU increased from a total of 41,827 unduplicated users in fall 2004 to 55,964 users in fall 2005. The majority of the growth came from Kentucky Community and Technical College System users who increased by 13,404 to a total of 39,964 KCTCS users in fall 2005.

Efforts to revise the statewide definition of distance learning have been initiated. With the increased use of course management systems to support traditional courses, the current threshold of "more than 50 percent of content" being delivered electronically is proving insufficient. The Distance Learning Steering Team (DLST), the operational body of DLAC, will work with institutional research directors to develop a definition that focuses more on differences relevant to distant learners (e.g., a maximum number of face-to-face sessions) than on the technology used to deliver the instruction.

The Center for Rural Development, in partnership with KCTCS and with participation by the DLST Course Management System Exploration Workgroup, announced that it is in the final phase of negotiating a CMS license. While the initial agreement will support homeland security programs developed by the center, KCTCS expects to contract with the center for its growing CMS needs.

An update was provided on the status of the response to the May 2005 SACS Special Committee visit and report on KYVU. The Distance Learning Advisory Committee, in support of the KYVU/CPE response to SACS, passed an action item acknowledging its responsibility to make recommendations in this matter to CPE and an action item recommending that KYVU utilize the Distance Learning Steering Team as a discussion and review body assisting in the response to the SACS recommendations.

As part of the response, the DLST and other affected organizations will assist KYVU in formulating a clear and comprehensive KYVU mission statement to guide the continuing operations and development of the Kentucky Virtual University. The mission statement will assure that KYVU activities, priorities, and goals are consistent with the Council's public agenda. A day-long review and revision of the KYVU mission, goals, and services by DLST was proposed.

The KYVU will make an interim report to DLAC in January 2006 and propose responses to the SACS recommendations to DLAC in March 2006. Following their acceptance, DLAC will recommend that the new KYVU mission statement be formally approved by the CPE and communicated consistently to KYVU constituencies.

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